

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A medical retrieval device, comprising:

a proximal handle;

a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle; and

a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed

position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly

comprising a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands,

and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly

extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath, and a distal

portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion

comprising ~~a flat shape when the proximal portion extends from the distal end of~~

~~the sheath~~ a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two

strands, said distal portion extending perpendicular to the long axis of the

retrieval device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out

of the distal end of the sheath.

19-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The medical retrieval device of claim 20, wherein each strand

comprises stainless steel.


22. (previously presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein the proximal portion comprises a rigid material and the distal portion comprises a flexible material.

23. (cancelled)

24 (currently amended) The medical retrieval device of claim ~~20~~18, wherein at least one of the plurality of wires is flexible ~~the distal portion comprises a plurality of flexible wires, each of the wires extending from a distal end of one of the strands to a distal end of one of an adjacent strand and a non-adjacent strand.~~

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) The medical retrieval device of claim ~~20~~18, wherein ~~a plurality of~~ the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a square area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

 27. (previously presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, further comprising a guidewire, wherein axial movement of the guidewire in a proximal direction collapses the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

28. (currently amended) The medical retrieval device of claim ~~18~~27, wherein the guidewire is joined to a central portion of the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

29.(previously presented) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein moving the sheath in a distal direction causes the retrieval assembly to collapse when it enters the lumen.

30. (currently amended) A method for removing an object from a body tract, comprising: inserting a retrieval device into the body tract, the retrieval device comprising:
a proximal handle;

a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a distal end away from the handle;

a retrieval assembly that is moveable relative to the sheath to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly within the lumen, the retrieval assembly comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a distal end, a plurality of strands, and a three-dimensional shape when at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the lumen from the distal end of the sheath[[:]], and,

a distal portion positioned at the distal end of the proximal portion, the distal portion comprising ~~a flat shape when the proximal portion extends from the distal end of the sheath~~ a plurality of wires, each wire joined to the distal end of at least two strands and extending perpendicular to the long axis of the device when the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends out of the distal end of the sheath;

extending the retrieval assembly beyond the distal end of the sheath;

trapping the object by the distal portion of the retrieval assembly; and

withdrawing the retrieval device from the body tract ~~to remove the object from the body.~~

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising dilating the body tract around the object by the proximal portion when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein extending the retrieval assembly comprises moving the sheath in a proximal direction to cause the retrieval

assembly to achieve an open position when the retrieval assembly extends beyond the distal end of the sheath.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the retrieval device further comprises a guidewire having a distal end joined to the distal portion of the retrieval assembly.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein trapping comprises[[:]] trapping the object between the distal portion of the retrieval assembly and a body tissue when the ~~distal~~ proximal portion of the retrieval assembly extends from ~~assumes the flat shape; and collapsing the retrieval assembly by axially moving the guidewire in a proximal direction to move the distal portion of the retrieval assembly towards~~ the distal end of the sheath.

35. (new) The medical retrieval device of claim 18, wherein the distal ends of the plurality of strands define a substantially circular area when the proximal portion assumes the three-dimensional shape.

36. (new) The medical retrieval device of claim 27, further comprising a second guidewire.
